

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
War Food AdministrationSUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR RECRUITMENT OF OUT-OF-STATE FARM WORKERS 1943LIBRARY  
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

An acute shortage of farm workers will necessitate effective recruitment programs to uncover all available workers. The need is immediate and urgent for getting a line on prospective supplies of seasonal workers to meet demands in States that are far in excess of any known supplies at present. Up to the present moment, the Extension Service has not been charged with the responsibility of recruiting workers for interstate uses. Col. Jay L. Taylor, Deputy Administrator, War Food Administration, has suggested that the Extension Service might prefer to take over the responsibility for the recruitment of workers who might be available within their respective States for interstate movement. Such procedure would make it possible to fully coordinate the recruitment of farm workers for both interstate and intrastate work. Special allotments to cover the cost of the recruitment of interstate labor would be provided the State extension service.

Should the State extension directors be willing to assume this responsibility, the recruitment of interstate labor might be handled in one of several ways:

- A. Where the State extension service has a contractual arrangement with the U.S.E.S., this might be extended to provide for the recruitment of farm labor for work in other States.
- B. The Interstate and Foreign Labor Division (composed of personnel detailed from Farm Security Administration who have had experience in recruiting year-round workers) might be utilized for short periods by the State extension farm labor office to assist with the recruitment of interstate workers. This procedure would have a marked advantage because of the Interstate and Foreign Labor Division handling transportation where involved.
- C. The State extension farm labor office might organize a small mobile recruiting staff to augment the county farm labor staff in counties from which workers are to be recruited for interstate movement.

Regardless of which of the above plans might be selected (and a different plan could be followed in different States), the State Extension Service would be responsible for the direction of the interstate farm labor recruitment and would be allotted special funds for that purpose by the Deputy Food Administrator.

To get the above plan for recruiting labor for out-of-state farm work under way in those States where there is a possibility of obtaining farm labor for other States the following procedure is suggested:



1. The State Extension Director of any State anticipating a possible surplus of potential farm labor at any time during the year should notify Meredith C. Wilson, Farm Labor, Federal Extension Office, outlining a proposed plan for recruitment of interstate farm labor.
2. Prepare a preliminary estimate of the funds required to perform this function. (It is possible that some of the personnel needed for periods of peak movement can be employed on a per diem basis.)
3. Submit an estimate, based on analyses of local labor supplies and demands, showing the numbers of workers and the dates available for work outside the State.
4. When orders are received for workers to go to other States the recruiting staff working under the direction of the county extension agents of the counties involved will contact prospective workers, inform them of type of work to be performed, location of employment, wages offered, living conditions, transportation arrangements, etc.
5. The Interstate and Foreign Labor Division would, of course, be responsible for transportation where necessary, to labor supply centers or other points of distribution.

To assist the State extension services in the establishment and operation of the plan for interstate recruitment of farm labor outlined above may require a special staff of two or three persons in the Federal Extension Service who can devote full time to the activity. This unit would also have a liaison function in connection with the clearance of orders for interstate workers.

The U. S. E. S. will, of course, continue its activities in recruiting and placing of industrial workers including workers for food processing. Accordingly unless this surplus labor is utilized in farm work for which it is especially qualified it will be placed in non-agricultural work.

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